

Supply

[Translation]

Businesses in my riding and throughout Ontario paid a high price because of the unsound policies of the Conservative government. Several went bankrupt. I will quote some statistics on that. Others had to lay off employees. Some could not afford expanding and modernizing and others are struggling to survive. Did the government forget that the vitality of the Canadian economy depends to a large extent on the small business? I am asking the question, Mr. Speaker. A large part of Canadian jobs are created by the small business.

[English]

The cost of Tory government policies is staggering. One has to spend a couple of days researching a speech to find out that there is untold evidence to support this statement.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association says high interest rates are the primary cause of the fall in the volume of manufacturing shipments and will cost manufacturers in Canada about \$3.2 billion more in interest charges in 1990 compared to 1987. The picture is bleak.

[Translation]

Second, under number two, the motion before us calls for this:

That this House condemn the Government for:

[—]

(2) cutting support for export promotion, science and technology and research and development, thereby accelerating Canada's slide into non-competitiveness;—

Mr. Speaker, in the very important field of high technology, this government's policies were definitely a step backwards. The government-made recession has put through hell the high technology businesses established in the Ottawa area for example.

Over the past year, we witnessed the closure of Leigh Instruments, one of the oldest and most popular company in the area, with 750 jobs lost. Mitel Corporation had to make temporary lay-offs and cut jobs. Newbridge Networks, a telecommunications company, had to shut down its plant and lay people off. Gandalf Data laid off 70 employees. And it goes on, Mr. Speaker; my list is quite long.

[English]

In *The Ottawa Citizen* of March 7, high-tech consultant Denzil Doyle estimated that Ottawa had lost at least 15 per cent of its high-tech industry last year and perhaps as many as 4,000 employees. Doyle says there isn't any sign of new companies to rejuvenate the industry. That is bad news. There are problems in the high-tech sector. The recession is probably the main problem. It has produced the worst business climate for the high-tech sector in a decade. It has made the selling of corporate equity very difficult for them. It has put even more pressure on already thin research and development budgets.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, nearly half of the jobs in Canada involve the use of computer technology. Yet, almost 90 per cent of this technology is imported. In 1984, this government was saying, and I quote:

The State should do its share (to strengthen the field of technology in Canada) by creating a favorable climate and encouraging the entrepreneurship required to foster innovation on a large scale.

[English]

We have been going down in research and development. We are doing less today than we were doing six years ago. Yet, this government promised it would do something about it.

In 1987 Canada's proportionate spending on R and D was only half that of Germany, Japan and the United States, and was less than smaller countries such as Switzerland, Sweden and the Netherlands.

[Translation]

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the motion before us states:

That this House condemn the Government for:

[—]

(3) its economic mismanagement that has caused record bankruptcies, put 1.4 million Canadians out of work and brought about the de-industrialization of Canada, especially Ontario.

Mr. Speaker, unemployment in Ottawa, the national Capital, rose to 7.8 per cent in February, a 21 per cent increase over the preceeding month.

We now have 5,000 more people out of work than the 33,000 we had in January.